

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-11 remain pending. By the foregoing amendment, claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 6 of U.S. Patent 5,705,500. By the foregoing amendment, claim 5 has been canceled and, therefore, this rejection is now moot.

Claims 1-4 and 6-11 stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-5 and 7-12 of U.S. Patent 5,705,500. Claims 1 and 6-11 stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-3 and 8 of U.S. Patent 6,169,085. A terminal disclaimer over the '500 and '085 patents (as well as over related U.S. Patents 5,985,870 and 6,380,188) is submitted concurrently herewith, which is believed to obviate these grounds of rejection.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejections, and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

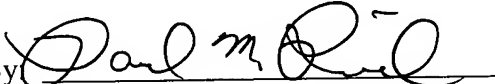
Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Date: June 5, 2003

Customer No. 22907

1001 G Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20001-4597
(202) 824-3000 (telephone)
(202) 824-3001 (facsimile)

By 
Paul M. Rivard
Registration No. 43,446